

CLAIMS

1. A control apparatus for a fuel cell vehicle comprising:
 - a propulsion motor capable of driving the vehicle;
 - a fuel cell supplied with a reactant gas to generate power from an electrochemical reaction;
 - a capacitor charged with generated power of said fuel cell and regenerative electric power of said propulsion motor, and a reactant gas supply device which supplies said reactant gas to said fuel cell; and
 - a power generation start device which drives said reactant gas supply device with current supplied from said capacitor to start power generation of said fuel cell;
 - a capacitor charging device which charges said capacitor by the current generated by said fuel cell when a terminal voltage has dropped due to supply of current to said reactant gas supply device;
 - an output voltage estimating device which estimates the output voltage of said fuel cell, which would drop in the future when a current is supplied to said propulsion motor from said fuel cell;
 - a terminal capacitor voltage detecting device which detects the terminal voltage of said capacitor; and
 - a propulsion motor drive permitting device which permits power supply from said

fuel cell to said propulsion motor when said capacitor terminal voltage is detected to be equal to or greater than the estimated output voltage estimated by said output voltage estimating device.

2. A control apparatus for the fuel cell vehicle according to claim 1, characterized in that said output voltage estimating device estimates said estimated output voltage based on a predetermined accelerator opening related to an accelerator operation amount by a driver of the vehicle.